Goals / Objectives

1. Identify the various peer groups that influence and shape the lives of youth.
2. Define and identify situations involving stakeholders that have an immediate and/or delayed impact on youth perspective and responses.
3. Assess critical role of stakeholders vital to addressing challenges in better communicating with youth.
Slide 4

Understanding the Cycle

- **I** (Individual)
- **You** (Parents, grandparents, inside the circle)
- **We** (Peers, associates)
- **Them** (the other groups, I know them, but don’t hang with them)
- **They** (Authority, media, influential role models – real/fake, etc.)

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Slide 5

I and You

- Shapes Future
- The Finished Product
- The “You” group is where “I” will draw the most from in the future.

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Slide 6

Who is “We”?

- Friends
- People “I” relate to the most
- School Organizations
- Peer Groups
- Brothers/Sisters
Slide 7

I and We

- I and We shape the Present
- Teenagers live in the new age of NOW!
- Everything is instant
  "We are only focused on the now!"

Slide 8

Who is “Them”?

- "I don't fool with them!"
- Peer Groups that I don’t relate to.
- The kids down the block.
- Outcast
- I don't readily identify with “them”.

Slide 9

Who is “They”?

- Juvenile Justice System
- Social Media
- Judges
- School Teachers
- Caseworkers
- Police Officers
- Public Icons
Slide 10

“There’s a thin line between you and they.”

Slide 11

What’s a Trigger?

- What upsets you?
- Pet peeves
- That one thing/word
- Avoid people, places, and situations that bring out the worst in you!

Slide 12

Conflict is Normal!

- Not being Hi-Jacked by anger!
- Understand feelings
- Use feeling words
- Use “I” statements vs. “You” statements
- Create Alternatives – You will get angry again
- It’s ok to get angry!
Youth Alternative Responses

- Take responsibility — “response ability”
- Look at self
- Make it funny – joke
- Have a plan for other activities (physical or mental exertion – what do you like to do?)
- Rehearse your ideas (thought process)

*The next time I get angry, I’ll...*

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Provide Examples and Explanations

- **Overgeneralizing.** For example, “You always interrupt me. You NEVER consider my needs. EVERYONE disrespects me. I NEVER get the credit!”
- **Obsessing on “shoulds” and “musts.”** Having a rigid view of the way things should or must be and getting angry when reality doesn’t line up with this vision.
- **Mind reading and jumping to conclusions.** Assuming you “know” what someone else is thinking or feeling—that he or she intentionally upset you, ignored your wishes, or disrespected you.
- **Collecting straws.** Looking for things to get upset about, usually while overlooking or blowing past anything positive. Letting these small irritations build and build until you reach the “final straw” and explode, often over something relatively minor.
- **Blaming.** When anything bad happens or something goes wrong, it’s always someone else’s fault. You blame others for the things that happen to you rather than taking responsibility for your own life.

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Pay attention to the way anger feels in your body

- Knots in your stomach
- Clenching your hands or jaw
- Feeling clammy or flushed
- Breathing faster
- Headaches
- Pacing or needing to walk around
- “Seeing red”
- Having trouble concentrating
- Pounding heart
- Tensing your shoulders
Building Your Skills to Respond Appropriately

- How much do you know about the youth in your community?
- What do you know about the youth culture(s)?
  - Language
  - Music
  - Trends
- Be willing to meet youth where they are
- View the youth as a resource
- YOU can make a difference!

Language

- What are they saying?
- What does that mean?
- Understanding slang terms

Knowledge is Power

- Explore their culture
- Experience their culture (life) with an open mind (your upbringing may have been different — doesn’t mean theirs is wrong — your interest may be the catalyst to open communication)
- Some adults have their heads in the sand
- To set the example, be the example
Slide 19

So, What’s Your Role?

- Take Time, Make Time
- Know the village youth
- Stand for something or they’ll fall for anything
- Remove own prejudices to help them where they are
- Step out of comfort zone
- Reach, Teach, Build Up

Slide 20

Protective Factors

- Individual Characteristics
- Bonding Opportunities (positive role model)
- Healthy beliefs and clear standards

Slide 21

Help the “bonding” process by providing...

- Skills
- Opportunities
- Recognition
1. Increase Prosocial Bonding
2. Set Clear, Consistent Boundaries
3. Teach “Life Skills”
4. Provide Care & Support
5. Set & Communicate High Expectations
6. Provide Opportunities for Meaningful Participation

Build Resiliency in the Environment
Mitigate Risk Factors in the Environment

The Resiliency Wheel


Slide 23

10 Tips to Help
No. 1: Take a timeout
Counting to 10 isn’t just for kids. Before reacting to a tense situation, take a few moments to breathe deeply and count to 10. Slowing down can help defuse your temper. If necessary, take a break from the person or situation until your frustration subsides a bit.

No. 2: Once you’re calm, express your anger
As soon as you’re thinking clearly, express your frustration in an assertive but nonconfrontational way. State your concerns and needs clearly and directly, without hurting others or trying to control them.

Source: adopted from www.mayoclinic.com/health/anger-management

Slide 24

10 Tips to Help
No. 3: Get some exercise
Physical activity can provide an outlet for your emotions, especially if you’re about to erupt. If you feel your anger escalating, go for a brisk walk or run, or spend some time doing other favorite physical activities. Physical activity stimulates various brain chemicals that can leave you feeling happier and more relaxed than you were before you worked out.

No. 4: Think before you speak
In the heat of the moment, it’s easy to say something you’ll later regret. Take a few moments to collect your thoughts before saying anything — and allow others involved in the situation to do the same.

Source: adopted from www.mayoclinic.com/health/anger-management
No. 5: Identify possible solutions
Instead of focusing on what made you mad, work on resolving the issue at hand. Does your child's messy room drive you crazy? Close the door. Is your partner late for dinner every night? Schedule meals later in the evening — or agree to eat on your own a few times a week. Remind yourself that anger won’t fix anything, and might only make it worse.

No. 6: Stick with “I” statements
To avoid criticizing or placing blame — which might only increase tension — use “I” statements to describe the problem. Be respectful and specific. For example, say, “I’m upset that you left the table without offering to help with the dishes,” instead of, “You never do any housework.”

Source: adopted from www.mayoclinic.com/health/anger-management

No. 7: Don’t hold a grudge
Forgiveness is a powerful tool. If you allow anger and other negative feelings to crowd out positive feelings, you might find yourself swallowed up by your own bitterness or sense of injustice. But if you can forgive someone who angered you, you might both learn from the situation. It’s unrealistic to expect everyone to behave exactly as you want at all times.

No. 8: Use humor to release tension
Lightening up can help diffuse tension. Don’t use sarcasm, though — it can hurt feelings and make things worse.

Source: adopted from www.mayoclinic.com/health/anger-management

No. 9: Practice relaxation skills
When your temper flares, put relaxation skills to work. Practice deep breathing exercises, imagine a relaxing scene, or repeat a calming word or phrase, such as, “Take it easy.” — whatever it takes to encourage relaxation.

No. 10: Know when to seek help
Learning to control anger is a challenge for everyone at times. Consider seeking help for anger issues if your anger seems out of control, causes you to do things you regret or hurts those around you. You might explore local anger management classes or anger management counseling.

Source: adopted from www.mayoclinic.com/health/anger-management
Clues that there's something more to your anger

You have a hard time compromising. Is it hard for you to understand other people’s points of view, and even harder to concede a point? If you grew up in a family where anger was out of control, you may remember how the angry person got his or her way by being the loudest and most demanding. Compromising might bring up scary feelings of failure and vulnerability.

You have trouble expressing emotions other than anger. Do you pride yourself on being tough and in control, never letting your guard down? Do you feel that emotions like fear, guilt, or shame don't apply to you? Everyone has those emotions, and if you think you don’t, you may be using anger as a cover for them.

You view different opinions and viewpoints as a personal challenge to you. Do you believe that your way is always right and get angry when others disagree? If you have a strong need to be in control or a fragile ego, you may interpret other perspectives as a challenge to your authority, rather than simply a different way of looking at things.

If you are uncomfortable with many emotions, disconnected, or stuck on an angry one-note response to everything, it might do you some good to get back in touch with your feelings.

Emotional awareness is the key to self-understanding and success in life. Without the ability to recognize, manage, and deal with the full range of human emotions, you'll inevitably spin into confusion, isolation, and self-doubt.

Remember,

**Programs don't change kids...**

**Relationships do!**